Message Text

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11

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 EUR-25 EA-11 NEA-14 IO-14 ISO-00 FEA-02

AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-02 H-03

INR-10 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-20 STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15

PRS-01 SP-03 OMB-01 SWF-02 DRC-01 AF-10 /245 W

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6623

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOKM

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: ETRD, GATT

SUBJ: MTN: TNC WORKING GROUP ON NTBS (3B) --

PACKAGING AND LABELING

1. SUMMARY: NTB WORKING GROUP ON PACKAGING AND LABELING AGREED ON TEXT OF DRAFT SECTION OF REPORT TO TNC. END SUMMARY

- 2. NTB GROUP AT SECOND EXPERT LEVEL MEETING ON JUNE 18-19 FOCUSED ON THREE AREAS: (1) CLARIFICATION OF PROBLEMS; (2) WORK OF OTHER ORGANIZATIONS IN THIS FIELD; (3) POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS, ESPECIALLY APPLICABILITY OF PROPOSED STANDARDS CODE TO PACKAGING AND LABELING.
- 3. U.S. (KELLY) POINTED OUT THAT DRAFT GATT STANDARDS
 CODE IS APPLICABLE TO PROBLEMS OF PACKAGING AND LABELING
 AND THAT DEFINITION OF "STANDARD," AS SET FORTH IN ANNEX I
 OF CODE, SPECIFICALLY REFERS TO PACKAGING, MARKING OR
 LABELING. U.S. RECOGNIZES THAT CODE MIGHT NOT SOLVE ALL
 PACKAGING AND LABLEING PROBLEMS, BUT, AS IN CASE OF
 STANDARDS, DRAFT CODE PROVIDES VEHICLE FOR DEALING WITH
 THEM. IN U.S. VIEW, GROUP HAS FAILED TO IDENTIFY PROBLEMS
 NOT COVERED BY CODE. IN ANY CASE WHERE CODE IS NOT
 RELEVANT TO PACKAGING AND LABELING, IT COULD BE REVISED
 AS NECESSARY WHEN WORK ON CODE IS RESUMED IN NEGOTIATIONS.
- 4. NORDICS STRONGLY SUPPORTED U.S. ADDING THAT IN VIEW OF EXTENSIVE WORK ON CODE, IT MAKES MORE SENSE TO ATTEMPT TO DEAL WITH PACKAGING AND LABELING PROBLEMS THROUGH

CODE RATHER THAN TO DRAFT A TOTALLY NEW INSTRUMENT. AT APPROPRIATE TIME POSSVOLE AMENDMENTS TO CODE TO REFLECT WORK OF NTB BROUP COULD BE CONSIDERED. ALTHOUGH JAPANESE APPEARED TO BE IN GENERAL AGREEMENT WITH U.S., THEY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INDICATED THAT THERE MAY BE SOME AREAS NOT VOVERED BY CODE. NONETHELESS, CODE COULD PROBABLY BE EXTENDED TO COVER SUCH SITUATIONS. CANADA AND POLAND ALSO GENERALLY SUPPORTED U.S. VIEW.

5. AS EXPECTED, EC (DERISBOURG) SUPPORTED BY SWITZER-LAND SAID THAT CODE CLEARLY DID NOT COVER ALL PACKAG-ING AND LABELING PROBLEMS, E.G. STANDARD OF FILL REQUIRE- MENTS, AND REITERATED VIEW THAT SINCE MUCH WORK REMAINS TO BE DONE ON PACKAGING AND LABELING, EXAMINATION BY NTB GROUP OF APPLICABILITY OF DRAFT STANDARDS CODE TO THESE PROBLEMS IN PREMATURE. IN EC VIEW, U.S. JUMPING GUN; GROUP SHOULD CONTINUE EFFORTS TO IDENTIFY PROBLEMS AND CLARIFY TRADE EFFECTS OF PACKAGING AND LABELING REQUIREMENTS BEFORE TAKING UP POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS.

6. AS AT LAST MEETING, JAPAN AGAIN ASSERTED THAT MARKS OF ORIGIN INCLUDED IN GROUP'S TERMS OF REFERENCE. GROUP AGREED THAT THIS MATTER SHOULD BE REFERRED TO TNC.

7. LDCS PLAYED AMLOST NO ROLE IN MEETING.

8. AFTER TEDIOUS FIVE-HOUR DEBATE, GROUP APPROVED DRAFT SECTION OF REPORT TO TNC WHICH OUTLINES MAJOR TRADE PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH PACKAGING AND LABELING REQUIREMENTS, NOTES WORK OF OTHER ORGANIZATIONS IN FIELD, AND DISCUSSES POSSIBLE APPROACHES TO BE ADOPTED. TEXT STATES THAT "MANY DELEGATIONS" (U.S. AND MOST OTHERS INCLUDING NORDICS, CANADA AND JAPAN) SAID THAT PROPOSED CODE DEALS WITH MOST PACKAGING AND LABELING PROBLEMS. HOWEVER, "OTHER DELEGATIONS" (EC AND SWITZERLAND) SAID THAT IT WOULD BE PREMATURE TO DECIDE AT THIS STAGE AMONG POSSIBLE APPROACHES. HOWEVER, THEY BELIEVE THAT MANY PROVISIONS OF THE CODE COULD BE APPLICABLE TO PROBLEMS OF PACKAGING AND LABELING.

9. COMMENT: DRAFT SECTION OF REPORT TO TNC ACCURATELY REFLECTS DELEGATIONS' VIEWS. CONSIDERING EC'S RELUCTANCE TO COMMIT THEMSELVES ON APPLICABILITY OF CODE TO PACKAGING AND LABELING, TEXT IS PROBABLY BEST WE COULD HOPE FOR. FYI. DELEGATION UNDERSTANDS THAT EC (SCHLOSSER) IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INFORMAL CONVERSATION DURING ECE MEETING LAST WEEK IMPLIED THAT EC POSITION DICTATED BY FRENCH WHO DO NOT WISH TO RESUME WORK ON STANDARDS CODE AT EARLY DATE, IF AT ALL. END FYI. DALE

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Subject: MTN: TNC WORKING GROUP ON NTBS (3B) -- PACKAGING AND LABELING

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